

Application No. 09/896,565

REMARKS

Claims 17-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 10-16 are canceled and claims 17-19 are amended.

Claims 17-19 are amended to recite a "predetermined fragile portion," with support therefor in the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 22. Claims 18 and 19 are also amended to eliminate unnecessary punctuation.

No new matter has been added by the amendments to the pending claims.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over USPN5642636 to Mitsui, in view of USPN6135514 to Kowalewski and claims 5, 11, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over the foregoing U.S. patents, and further in view of USPN 3824817 to Orr. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. However, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, claims 1-2, 4-8, and 10-16 are canceled. Moreover, claim 17 has been amended as described above pursuant to the suggestion in the Office that Claim 17 would be allowable if so amended.


Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18-19 are appreciatively acknowledged as object to as dependent on a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 is appreciatively acknowledged as allowable if the "fragile portion" is rewritten to recite "predetermined fragile portion." Applicant has amended claim 17 as suggested. Hence, claim 17 is submitted to be allowable. Because claim 17 is allowable, claims 18-19, depending from claim 17, are now submitted to be allowable as well.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,


Wm. Larry Alexander
Registration No. 37,269

Customer No. 24113
Patterson, Thuent, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.
4800 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100
Telephone: (612) 349-5757